

Minutes of the Regional Planning Commission
Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Byron Colby Barn at Prairie Crossing, Grayslake, IL

The Regional Planning Commission met with the following in attendance:

Members Present:

Marvin Raymond – Chair
Charles J. Lucas – Vice Chair
Craig Ellison
~~Lawrence Falbe~~
Paul Geiselhart
William Holleman
~~Donald Klein~~
Marie Lyons
Jordan Madorsky
Loraine Ray
~~Bryan Rouse~~
Terry L. Weppler
Charles Willms

Planning Staff:

Megan Krueger
Bill Hunt
David Husemoller

Ex-Officios:

Philip Rovang

Others:

Rory Klick – College of Lake County
Mike Sands – Liberty Prairie Foundation
Chris Cubberly – Tempel Farms Organics
JoAnn Ellison
Mary Jane Lucas

1.0 CALL TO ORDER - meeting called to order by Chairman Raymond at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 2.1** Motion: Motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2009 Regional Planning Commission Meeting.
Made by: Commissioner Ray
Seconded by: Commissioner Willms
Action: Approved unanimously.
- 2.2** Motion: Motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2009 Regional Planning Commission Meeting.
Made by: Commissioner Weppler
Seconded by: Commissioner Geiselhart
Action: Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Ray requested that Commission members begin receiving the RPC Meeting Agendas electronically rather than by mail due to the expense.

A sheet was passed around to all of the members for signature; the Commission Members who wish to receive the agenda electronically signed the paper.

3.0 ADDED TO AGENDA ITEMS - None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS -None

6.0 PLAN REVIEWS AND HEARINGS - None

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Revised Policy Development Schedule

Mr. David Husemoller went over the schedule of events for the upcoming RPC meetings. He explained what would be happening during the next few meetings, and advised the Commission Members of when their report on Sustainable Agriculture is due to be presented to the PB&Z Committee.

**7.2 Guest Speaker on Sustainable Agriculture at the College of Lake County
Ms. Rory Klick, Asst. Professor of Horticulture/Department Chair College of Lake County
Teaching Sustainable Agriculture**

Ms. Rory Klick addressed the Commission Members regarding the evolution of the Horticulture program at the College of Lake County. She has been involved in writing the new curriculum and receiving accreditation for the program. The program is adapted to the current trends in agriculture; organic farming practices and sustainable agriculture; landscape architecture with native plants, and wetland restoration and mitigation.

Ms. Klick went on to say that there has been an increased trend in students interested in pursuing careers in Horticulture and organic agriculture. This is true of high school students, as well as, individuals interested in career changes. It is important to continue to reach out to the surrounding communities to promote these career options to the residents.

**7.3 Guest Speaker on Local Food Production in Lake County
Mike Sands, Executive Director
Liberty Prairie Foundation
The Farm Business Development Program at Prairie Crossing
Prairie Crossing Farm Tour**

Mr. Mike Sands stated that the increased trend in sustainability and food production expands beyond the County; it is a regional and even national trend. Farming was not previously considered to be financially practical; however, locally grown, organic food production is very profitable. Sand Hill Organic farm has profits of \$18,000 to \$20,000 per acre, and at 20 acres, the USDA considers this to be a large farm.

Mr. Sands went on to explain that for an organization to be profitable there must be marketing to insure success, which is true for the farming industry as well. Farming is progressing toward smaller, organic, more profitable farms, and the financing is changing as well. For example, the farm at Prairie Crossing is a cooperative that takes seasonal orders and payment up front, and the product is delivered later. In this instance, the farmer is able to use the money to assist with the growing season rather than having to take out loans and then repaying the debts.

Mr. Sands affirmed that sustainable agriculture provides many opportunities for individuals willing to learn the trades. He invited the Commission members and the

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public to join him for a tour of Sand Hill Farms at Prairie Crossing so that he might demonstrate how the farm is operated.

The Commission members departed from the Byron Colby barn and traveled to the aforementioned farm for a “field trip” to learn more about the farm and the concept of sustainable agriculture.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS - None

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Chairman’s Report – None

9.2 Commissioners’ Comments - None

9.3 Director’s Report - None

9.4 Ex-Officio Reports – None

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the July 21, 2009, RPC Meeting at 6:09 p.m.
Made by: Commissioner Madorsky
Seconded by: Commissioner Ray
Action: Approved unanimously

Regional Planning Commission – Chair
Marvin J. Raymond

~~Marie C. Lyons~~

Vice-Chair – Charles J. Lucas

Jordan Madorsky

Craig Ellison

Lorraine A. Ray

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Terry L. Weppeler

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William Holleman

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~~Donald P. Klein~~

Recording Secretary – Megan Krueger